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XVI. *An Extract, by Mr.* Paul Rolli, *F. R. S. of an* Italian *Treatiſe, written by the Reverend* Joſeph Bianchini, *a Prebend in the City of* Verona; *upon the Death of the Counteſs* Cornelia Zangari & Bandi, *of* Ceſena. *To which are ſubjoined Accounts of the Death of* Jo. Hitchell, *who was burned to Death by Lightning; and of* Grace Pett *at* Ipſwich, *whoſe Body was conſumed to a Coal.*

Satius eſt de re ipſa quærere, quam mirari. SENECA.

Ceſena, April 4. 1731.

Read June 20. 1745. THE Counteſs *Cornelia Bandi*, in the 62d Year of her Age, was all Day as well as ſhe uſed to be; but at Night was obſerved, when at Supper, dull and heavy. She retired, was put to Bed, where ſhe paſſed three Hours and more in familiar Diſcourſes with her Maid, and in ſome Prayers; at laſt, falling aſleep, the Door was ſhut. In the Morning, the Maid, taking notice that her Miſtreſs did not awake at the uſual Hour, went into the Bed-chamber, and called her; but not being anſwer'd, doubting of ſome ill Accident, open'd the Window, and ſaw the Corpſe of her Miſtreſs in this deplorable Condition.

Four Feet Diſtance from the Bed there was a Heap of Aſhes, two Legs untouch'd, from the Foot to the Knee, with their Stockings on; between them was the Lady's Head; whoſe Brains, Half of the Back-

part of the Scull, and the whole Chin, were burnt to Aſhes; amongſt which were found three Fingers blacken'd. All the reſt was Aſhes, which had this particular Quality, that they left in the Hand, when taken up, a greaſy and ſtinking Moiſture.

The Air in the Room was alſo obſerved cumber'd with Soot floating in it: A ſmall Oil-Lamp on the Floor was cover'd with Aſhes, but no Oil in it. Two Candles in Candleſticks upon a Table ſtood upright; the Cotton was left in both, but the Tallow was gone and vaniſhed. Somewhat of Moiſture was about the Feet of the Candleſticks. The Bed receiv'd no Damage; the Blankets and Sheets were only raiſed on one Side, as when a Perſon riſes up from it, or goes in: The whole Furniture, as well as the Bed, was ſpread over with moiſt and aſh-colour Soot, which had penetrated into the Cheſt-of-drawers, even to foul the Linnens: Nay the Soot was alſo gone into a neighbouring Kitchen, and hung on the Walls, Moveables, and Utenſils of it. From the Pantry a Piece of Bread cover'd with that Soot, and grown black, was given to ſeveral Dogs, all which refuſed to eat it. In the Room above it was moreover taken notice, that from the lower Part of the Windows trickled down a greaſy, loathſome, yellowiſh Liquor; and thereabout they ſmelt a Stink, without knowing of what; and ſaw the Soot fly around.

It was remarkable, that the Floor of the Chamber was ſo thick ſmear'd with a gluiſh Moiſture, that it could not be taken off; and the Stink ſpread more and more through the other Chambers.

REMARKS.

REMARKS.

IT is impoſſible, that, by any Accident, the Lamp ſhould have cauſed ſuch a Conflagration.

There is no Room to ſuppoſe any ſupernatural Cauſe.

The likelieſt Cauſe then is a Flaſh of Lightning; which, according to the moſt common Opinion, being but a ſulphureous and nitrous Exhalation from the Earth, having been kindled in the Air, did penetrate either thro' the Chimney, or thro' the Chinks of the Windows, and did the Operation. All the above mentioned Effects prove the Aſſertion; for thoſe remaining foul Particles are the groſſeſt Parts of the *Fulmen*, either burnt to Aſhes, or thickened into a viſcous bituminous Matter. Hence no Wonder the Dogs would not eat of the Bread, becauſe of the Bitterneſs of the Soot, and Stink of the Sulphur that lodged on it. The impalpable Aſhes of the Lady's Corpſe are alſo a Demonſtration; for nothing but a *Fulmen* could produce ſuch an Effect.

They ſay that there was not any Noiſe; but may be there was, and they heard it not, being in a ſound Sleep: Beſides, there have been ſeen Lightnings and *Fulmina* without Noiſe; as one may very often obſerve.

THIS is the whole *Narration*; after which I think proper to place what is ſaid in the Preface relating to it.

IN the *Acta Medica & Philoſophica Hafnienſia*, publiſhed by the celebrated *Thomas Bartolin*, 1673.

Vol

Vol. II. p. 211. n. 118. one may ſee ſuch another Accident related in theſe very Words.

" A poor Woman at *Paris* uſed to drink Spirit " of Wine plentifully for the Space of three Years, " ſo as to take nothing elſe. Her Body contracted " ſuch a combuſtible Diſpoſition, that one Night ſhe, " lying down on a Straw-Couch, was all burned to " Aſhes and Smoke, except the Scull, and the Extre- " mities of her Fingers."

John Henry Cohauſen relates this Fact in a Book printed at *Amſterdam* 1717, intituled, *Lumen novum Phoſphoris accenſum*; and in the firſt Part, p. 92. relates alſo, " That a *Poliſh* Gentleman, in the Time " of the Queen *Bona Sforza*, having drank two " Diſhes of a Liquor called Brandy-Wine, vomited " Flames, and was burnt by them."

REMARKS.

SUCH an Effect was not produced by the Light of the Oil-Lamp, or of any Candles; becauſe common Fire, even in a Pile, does not conſume a Body to ſuch a Degree; and would have beſides ſpread itſelf to the Goods of the Chamber, more combuſtible than a human Body. It ſeems alſo, that it was not what is commonly taken for a *Fulmen*; for there was not left in the Place any ſulphureous and nitrous Smell: There did not appear any blackiſh Tracks on the Walls; all Signs of the *Fulmina*, as they have been remarked by the exacteſt Obſerver of *Phænomena*, the celebrated Mr. *Boyle*. But if it was not a real *Fulmen*, it was certainly of ſuch a Nature.

Some thought, that in the Ground under the Room might have been a Mine of Sulphur: Which granted;

what then? I know, by Experience, that in the very Mines of Sulphur have periſhed ſome of the Miners, but only by Suffocations cauſed by ſome ſudden copious Exhalation of kindled Sulphur; and never by having been burnt to Aſhes. The Miners have informed me on the Spot, that thoſe of them who periſhed, have been only choaked by a ſtrong nitrous and ſulphureous *Effluvium*; but none of them by having been ſet on Fire.

The Author relates, That, going once out of Curioſity into a Sulphur-Mine by *Montefiaſcone*, when near the Place from whence the Miners digg'd out the Sulphur, he was adviſed by one of them, who was carrying out his Load, not to go farther; for, either the Smell, or ſome ſudden Exhalation, might have done him great Injury; and when got again in the open Air, told him, a few Days before three of his Fellow Miners fell ſtone-dead, while they were at Work, by a violent Suffocation, cauſed by a ſtrong Exhalation of bituminous Smoke, which burſt violently from the Place where they were digging; which Miſfortune was too frequent in ſuch Mines; but he never heard nor ſaw, that any of them had been burnt.

Thence it is concluded, that if the *Fulmina* have ſuch an Effect, the *Incendium* proceeds originally from their nitrous, and not from their ſulphureous Parts; becauſe the Air, very cloſely impriſon'd in the Nitre, and not in the Sulphur, either by its own Elaſticity, or by ſome other Agent being put in Agitation, produces the Flame of the *Fulmen*, which burns and conſumes any thing to Aſhes.

I have

I have, ſays he, ſeen the famous Sulphur-Spring, a Mile diſtant from *Pozzoli*, mentioned by *Petronius Arbiter*: At the lower End of the Plain there is a Pit of liquid Sulphur, whoſe boiling Æſtuations riſe ten or twelve Feet. Its liquid Matter conſumes the Fleſh of any Corpſe, but does not affect the Bones in the leaſt. In our Caſe the very Bones were burnt to Aſhes; and ſtill the Pavement was not damaged. No ſulphureous Smell remained in the Chamber.

All this he advances, to oppoſe the Opinion of an Academician at *Ravenna*, who inſiſted, That underneath that Chamber muſt be a ſulphureous Mine. Which Opinion he founds on this, That, in the very Houſe, in a Room near that the Lady was burnt in, there was ſet on Fire a good Quantity of Hemp, and could not be found out by whom; as alſo, that, all on a ſudden, Part of the Palace had fallen, and not by any Earthquake; ſo that one might conjecture all this to be Effects of the ſulphureous Mine underground; Which is not proved by thoſe Aſſertions. Nay, on the contrary, if there was a Mine of Sulphur, one ſhould ſmell the Stink of it in thoſe dull Days, when the nauſeous South Wind blows; the Sulphur Mines then ſtinking at a great Diſtance: Beſides, the Effects of Sulphur are not to reduce a Body into impalpable Aſhes.

The AUTHOR's *Opinion.*

THE Fire was cauſed in the Entrails of the Body by inflamed *Effluvia* of her Blood, by Juices and Fermentations in the Stomach, by the many combuſtible Matters which are abundant in living Bodies for the Uſes of Life; and, finally, by the fiery Evaporations which

which exhale from the Settlings of Spirit of Wine, Brandies, and other hot Liquors in the *Tunica villoſa* of the Stomach, and other *adipoſe* or fat Membranes; within which (as Chymiſts obſerve) thoſe Spirits ingender a kind of Camphire; which, in the Night-time, in Sleep, by a full Breathing and Reſpiration, are put in a ſtronger Motion, and, conſequently, more apt to be ſet afire.

PROOFS.

FAT is an oily Liquid ſeparated from the Blood by the Glands of the *Membrana adipoſa*; and it is of an eaſily combuſtible Nature, as common Experience ſhews.

Our Blood is of ſuch a Nature; as alſo our Lymph and Bile: All which, when dry'd by Art, flame like Spirit of Wine at the Approach of the leaſt Fire, and burn away into Aſhes. [*Obſerv.* 171. *in the* Ephemeris *of* Germany, Anno X.]

Such a Drying-up of Matters may be cauſed in our Body by drinking rectified Brandy, and ſtrong Wines; as Monſieur *Litre* obſerved in the Diſſection of a Woman 45 Years old, in the Hiſtory of the *Royal Academy of Sciences*, 1706. p. 23. Which Effect may oftener happen, if the Spirit of Wine has any Mixture of Camphire: For that Liquor is but a ſublimated Oil, whoſe ſulphureous Particles, being attenuated by the Fermentation, when ſeparated from fixed and ſalt Matters, are eaſily put in Motion, and, rolling thro' the Air, become Flame and Fire.

Beſides, altho' the Salts which are in living and vegetable Creatures are not naturally inclined to kin-

dle; nevertheleſs they often contribute to it, particularly, when there is join'd ſome ſtrong boiling Fermentation. It is from ſuch a Cauſe, that we know how the Mixture of two Liquors, altho' cold to the Touch, produces a flaming Fire.

Becher was the firſt Diſcoverer of this marvelous *Phænomenon*, by mixing Oil of Vitriol with that of Turpentine. *Borrichius* afterwards did the ſame, by mixing Oil of Turpentine with *Aqua fortis*; and at laſt Monſieur *Tournefort*, by joining Spirit of Nitre with the Oil of *Saſſafras*; and Monſieur *Homberg* with this acid Spirit, together with the Oil and Quinteſſences of all the aromatic *Indian* Herbs: Nay, Mr. *Homberg* aſſerts, that with a certain cold Water Cannons were fired, *Anno* 1710. in the aboveſaid Hiſtory of the *Academy of Sciences*, p. 66.

It is out of Queſtion, how, by a ſtrong Fermentation, Magazines of Gunpowder, Barns, Paper-Mills, and Haycocks, have been ſet afire.

The acid Particles in our Bodies are much united with the Fat and oily Parts; nay, all our Limbs abound with Oil and Acid. What Wonder then, if they may kindle? as Mr. *Homberg* well obſerves, in the aforeſaid Hiſtory, 1712. 1717. from p. 13. to 31. where he takes notice, that all our Limbs have abundance of fetid Oil, and volatile Salt, and therefore eaſily combuſtible.

We ought not to omit how the Teeth are form'd by ſo many ſhort Tubes, the Bones by long ones, and eaſier therefore to be ſet on Fire. *Malpighi* obſerved alſo, that the Bones contain a fat oily Matter.

Beſides all this, we know that the *ſebaceous Glands* are ſpread all over the Body; and that an oily Moiſture,

ure, with now-and-then a nitrous ſulphureous Smell, perſpires from our Skin; to which Dr. *Blancard* aſcribes the whole Circulation.

Abundance of combuſtible Matter, ſhut up in a great Number of Cells, lies in the *Omentum*.

There is further to be conſider'd the vaſt Quantity of *Effluvia* that emanate from our Bodies. *Sanctorius* obſerved, that, of eight Pounds of Food and Drink in a Day, there is an inſenſible Perſpiration of about five; computing with them thoſe *Effluvia* which go out of the Mouth by Breathing, and which might be gathered in Drops on a Looking-glaſs [*Sect.* 1. *Aphor.* 6.]. As alſo, that, in the Space of one Night, it is cuſtomary to diſcharge about 16 Ounces of Urine, 4 of concocted Excrements by Stool, and 40 and more by Perſpiration [*Aphor.* 59.]. He teaches alſo, that Numbneſs is an Effect of too much internal Heat, by which is prevented ſuch an inſenſible Tranſpiration; as we will ſhew in this very Caſe.

On this Suppoſition I ſay, that the *Effluvia* of ſuch an inſenſible Tranſpiration are an inflammable Mine, eaſily apt to kindle, whenever a Friction, be it ever ſo ſmall, puts them in quick Motion, and increaſes their Velocity.

We acknowledge the Diſcovery of this evident Truth from Mr. *Hauksbee, F. R. S.* in the Experiment ſo much known of the *Glaſs Globe*, p. 30. to which I refer the Reader. I ſaw this Experiment at *Rome*; and altho' it ſeems that the Light be only *Phoſphorus* produced by the *Effluvia* coming out of the Hand, and of the Glaſs, it may nevertheleſs occaſion further Meditation on the preſent Caſe.

The Friction of the Palms of our Hands, or of any other Parts of our Body, may produce thoſe Fires commonly called *Ignes Lambentes.*

We learn of *Euſebius Nierembergius*, that ſuch was the Property of all the Limbs of the Father of *Theodoricus*: ſuch were thoſe of *Charles Gonzaga*, Duke of *Mantua*, as the celebrated *Bartolin* took notice of. By the Teſtimony of *John Fabri, M. D.* a noted Philoſopher, who ſaw it, Sparkles of Light flaſh'd out of the Head of a Woman, while ſhe comb'd her Hair. *Scaliger* relates the ſame of another Woman. *Cardanus*, of a *Carmelite* Monk, whoſe Head continued 13 Years to flaſh out Sparkles, every time he toſſed his Cowl on his Shoulders. *Ezekiel à Caſtro, M. D.* a famous *Jew*, and afterwards a *Chriſtian*, wrote a little Treatiſe, intituled, *Ignis lambens*; on the Occaſion that the Counteſs *Caſſandra Buri*, of *Verona*, when ſhe rubb'd her Arms with a Cambrick Handkerchief, all the Skin ſhined with a very bright Light. *Euſebius* relates the ſame of *Maximus Aquilanus*. *Licetus* heard ſay by his Father, that he ſaw the ſame Quality on *Francis Guido*, a Civilian; and that he himſelf knew *Antony Cianſio*, a Bookſeller in *Piſa*, who, when he ſhifted, ſhined all over with great Brightneſs. *Libavius* relates the ſame of a Youth; and *Cardanus* of a Friend of his; ſaying, that, when he ſhifted, clear Sparkles of Fire ſhot forth of his Body. Father *Kircher*, a Jeſuit, relates, how he, going in Company into a ſubterranean Grotto at *Rome*, ſaw Sparkles of Fire evaporate from the Heads of his Companions, grown warm by walking. Father *Alphonſo d'Ovale* was Eye-witneſs on the higheſt Mountains of *Peru* and

and *Chili*, how both Men and Beaſts there ſeem ſhining with the brighteſt Light from Top to Toe.

Theſe Flames ſeem harmleſs, but it is only for want of proper Fuel. *Peter Boviſteau* aſſerts, that ſuch Sparkles reduced to Aſhes the Hair of a young Man. *John de Viana*, in his Treatiſe intituled, *De Peſte Malagenſi*, p. 46. relates how the Wife of Doctor *Freilas*, Phyſician to Cardinal *de Royas*, Archbiſhop of *Toledo*, ſent forth naturally, by Perſpiration, a fiery Matter, of ſuch a Nature, that if the Roller that ſhe wore over her Shift was taken from her, and expoſed to the cold Air, it immediately was kindled, and ſhot forth like Grains of Gunpowder *.

After all this I ſay, that a feveriſh Fermentation, or a very ſtrong Motion of combuſtible Matters, may riſe in the Womb of a Woman, with ſuch an igneous Strength that can reduce to Aſhes the Bones, and burn the Fleſh. Two ſuch Caſes are known, one in the *Acta Medica Philoſophica & Hafnienſia, Anno* 1673. by the Obſervation of *Matt. Jacobei*; and the other in *M. Marcell. Donato, de Medic. Hiſt. Mirab. lib.* IV. *cap.* 25, p. 248. & *lib.* VII. *Coſmog.* c. 1. of *Cornel. Gemma.*

I ſay alſo, that the Bile, which is a neceſſary Juice for our Digeſtion, was obſerved by *Peter Borelli*, that, being vomited up by a Man, it boiled like *Aqua fortis*. [*Centur.* II. *Obſ.* 1. p. 109.].

Beſides,

* *Pet. Borelli* gives an Inſtance of ſuch *Effluvia* not only producing Light, but likewiſe Fire. *See* his *Obſ. Cent.* II. *Obſ.* 75. p. 174. where he ſays, That there was a certain Peaſant, whoſe Linen, hempen Thread, *&c.* if laid up in Boxes, tho' wet, or hung upon Sticks in the Air, did ſoon take Fire; which hath been ſeen by a great Number of Spectators.

Beſides, very ſtrong Fires may be kindled in our Bodies, as well as in other Animals of an hot Temperament, not only by Nature, but alſo by Art; which, being able to kill, will ſerve for a better Proof of my Argument. It is neceſſary, for clearer Inſtance thereof, to read the 77th Obſervation of *John Piſano*, in the *German Ephemerides*, printed in *Lipſia* 1670.

Tie the upper Orifice of the Stomach of an Animal with a String; tie alſo its lower Orifice; then cut it out above and below the Ligatures, and preſs it with both Hands, ſo that it ſwells up in one Side; which done, let the left Hand keep it ſo that the ſwell'd Part may not ſubſide; and, with the right, having firſt, at an Inch Diſtance, placed a Candle, open it quick with an anatomical Knife, and you will ſee a Flame there conceiv'd, coming out in a few Seconds of Time: And ſuch a Flame may, by the Curious, be perceived not only in the Stomach, but alſo in the Inteſtines. The firſt Diſcoverer of this was *Andrew Vulparius*, Anatomy-Profeſſor at *Bologna* in *Italy* 1669. Thus you ſee, that a quick and violent Agitation of Spirits, or a Fermentation of Juices in the Stomach, produces a viſible Flame. *Piſano* was an Eye-witneſs of the above-related Operation.

In the *German Ephemerides, anno* X. p. 53. of the Continuation by *John Chriſtopher Sturmius*, one may read, That often, in the Northmoſt Countries, Flames evaporate from the Stomachs of thoſe who drink ſtrong Liquors plentifully. About 17 Years ago, ſays the Author, three Noblemen of *Curland*, whoſe Names, for Decency-ſake, I will not publiſh, drank, by Emulation, ſtrong Liquors; and two of them

them died ſcorch'd and ſuffocated by a Flame forcing itſelf from the Stomach.

The moſt celebrated *Borelli* relates how he was told, that a Woman vomited Flames in the Point of Death: You may read, ſays he, in *Bartolinus de Luce*, and in *Euſebius Nierembergenſis* his Hiſtory *Nat. peregrin.* how ſuch Accidents did often happen in great Drinkers of Wine and Brandy: Where is related alſo, how Fire came out from the privy Parts of a Woman.

My Lord *Bacon*, in his *Nat. Univ. Hiſt.* aſſures, he had ſeen a Woman's Belly ſparkling like Fire; and truly ſuch Flames would often riſe in us, if the natural Moiſture did not quench them; as *Lucretius* obſerves, from *Verſe* 868. *Lib.* IV. and *Verſe* 1065. *Lib.* VI. Moreover, *Marcellus Donatus*, in his *Mirab. Hiſt. Medic. Lib.* VI. *Cap.* 4. intituled, *Of a new Diſtemper*, ſays, *Albertus Krantzius*, *Lib.* V. of his *Saxon* Hiſtory, That, in the Time of *Godfrey* of *Bologne* his Chriſtian War, in the Territory of *Niverva* or *Nivers*, People were burning of inviſible Fire in their Entrails, and ſome had cut off a Foot or an Hand where the Burning began, that it ſhould not go further. *Ezekiel de Caſtro*, in the aboveſaid Work of his, of *Lambent Fire*, relates the famous Inſtance of *Alexandrinus Megetius*, a Phyſician, who, from the *Vertebra* of the *Coxa*, after great Pain, relates how Fire came out, which burn'd the Eyes, as *Simplicius* and *Philaſeus*, Eye-witneſſes, did atteſt.

After all theſe Inſtances, what Wonder is there in the Caſe of our old Lady? Her Dulneſs before going to Bed was an Effect of too much Heat concentrated

trated in her Breaſt, which hindered the Perſpiration through the Pores of her Body; which is calculated to about 40 Ounces *per* Night. Her Aſhes, found at four Feet Diſtance from her Bed, are a plain Argument, that ſhe, by natural Inſtinct, roſe up to cool her Heat, and perhaps was going to open a Window.

The learned Marquis *Scipio Maffei* was told by Count *Atimis* of *Gorizia*, who paſſed through *Ceſena* a few Days after the Accident, that he heard ſay there, how the old Lady was uſed, when ſhe felt herſelf indiſpoſed, to bathe all her Body with camphorated Spirit of Wine; and ſhe did it perhaps that very Night. This is not a Circumſtance of any Moment; for the beſt Opinion is that of the internal Heat and Fire; which, by having been kindled in the Entrails, naturally tended upwards; finding the Way eaſier, and the Matter more unctuous and combuſtible, left the Legs untouch'd; which may have been ſaved alſo, by remaining cut off at the Combuſtion of the Tendons, where they join with the Knees. The Thighs were too near the Origin of the Fire, and therefore were alſo burnt by it; which was certainly increaſed by the Urine and Excrements, a very combuſtible Matter, as one may ſee by its *Phoſphorus*. *Galenus* (*Claſſ.* 1. *Lib.* III. *de Temperam.*) ſays, That the Dung of a Dove was ſufficient to ſet Fire to a whole Houſe: And the learned Father *Caſati*, a Jeſuit, in his *Phyſ. Diſſert.* Part 2. p. 48. relates to have heard a worthy Gentleman ſay, That, from great Quantities of the Dung of Doves, Flights of which uſed, for many Years, nay, Ages, to build under the Roof of the great Church of *Piſa*, ſprung originally the Fire which

which conſumed the ſaid Church *. After all this, the Author concludes, That to be ſure the Lady was burnt to Aſhes ſtanding; drawing the Conſequence from her Skull fallen perpendicular between her Legs; and that the Back-part of her Head had been damaged more than the Fore-part, was becauſe of her Hair, and of the Nerves, whoſe principal Seat lies there: and beſides, becauſe in the Face there were many Places open, out of which the Flames might paſs; as it happened in the Time of the *Roman* Conſuls *T. Gracchus* and *M. Juventius*, when a Flame came out of a Bull's Mouth, without hurting the Beaſt, by not finding any Reſiſtance to its Way.

Extract of a Pamphlet, intituled, " Fire from Heaven burning the Body of one *John Hitchell*, of *Holnehurſt*, within the Pariſh of *Chriſt-Church*, in the County of *Southampton*, the 26th of *June*, 1613:" *By* John Hilliard. *Printed at* London, 1613.

——THE Manner of the Accident is as followeth: He (*John Hitchell*), having been, on *Saturday* the 26th of *June* laſt, at Work at the Houſe of one *John Deane* of *Parly Court*, where he truly and

* Which Effect is confirmed by *Galen*, *lib.* II. *de Morb. Diff. cap.* 2. where he ſays, That he hath ſeen Pigeons Dung take Fire, when it was become rotten.

and painfully laboured at his Trade, being a Carpenter, and having ended his Day's Work, went home to his Houſe; and, after his coming home, betook himſelf to his Reſt; and, being in Bed with his Wife and Child, in the Deep of the Night, the Lightning came on ſo fiercely, that an old Woman, named *Agnes Ruſſell*, Mother to the Wife of the ſaid *John Hitchell*, having received a terrible Blow on her Cheek (by what means I know not), was therewith awakened, and cry'd to the ſaid *John Hitchell* and his Wife to help her: But they not anſwering, the poor old Woman ſtarted out of her Bed, and went unto the Bed where they lay, and awakened her Daughter, who was, upon the ſudden, moſt lamentably burnt all on one Side of her, and her Husband and Child dead by her Side. Yet nevertheleſs his poor Wife, when ſhe ſaw her Husband and Child had thus ſtrangely finiſhed their Days, ſhe (as it ſeemeth) thought not ſo much of the Hurt ſhe had received herſelf, as ſhe was careful to have preſerved the Life of her Husband, if by any means poſſibly ſhe could; and therefore (notwithſtanding all her grievous Wounds) ſhe dragg'd him out of the Bed into the Street; and there, by reaſon of the Vehemency of the Fire, ſhe was inforced, to her no ſmall Grief, to forſake him; where he lay burning upon the Ground for the Space of three Days after, or thereabouts. Not that there was any Appearance of Fire outwardly to be ſeen on him, but only a kind of Smoke aſcending upwards from his Carcaſe, until it was conſumed to Aſhes, except only ſome ſmall Shew of Part of his Bones, which were caſt into a Pit made by the Place.

An Extract of the Minutes of the Royal Society, *of* Nov. 8. *and* 15. 1744. *concerning the Woman at* Ipſwich, *who was found burnt to Aſhes on* April 10. *preceding.*

THE firſt Account of this extraordinary Accident was in a Letter from Mr. *R. Love* to his Brother Mr. *Geo. Love*, Apothecary at *Weſtminſter*, dated *Ipſwich*, *June* 28. 1744. which was laid before the *Society* by the *Preſident* on *Nov.* 8. following; wherein Mr. *Love* ſays, "That it appear'd, upon the Coroner's Inqueſt concerning the "Death of this Woman (at which he attended), that "ſhe, having gone up ſtairs with her Daughter to "Bed, went down again from her, half undreſs'd; "and that, the next Morning early, her Body was "found quite burnt, lying upon the Brick-Hearth in "the Kitchen, where no Fire had been, with the "Candleſtick ſtanding by her, and the Candle burnt "out, with which ſhe had lighted herſelf down; "and that the Daughter could aſſign no Reaſon for "her going down, unleſs it were to ſmoak a Pipe; "but ſaid ſhe was not addicted to drink *Gin*. The "Jury brought it in Accidental Death."

Nov. 15. Dr. *Lobb* communicated two Letters concerning the ſame Woman; one from the Reverend Mr. *Notcutt* at *Ipſwich*, to the Reverend Mr. *Gibbons*; this dated *July* 25. 1744. and the other from the ſaid Mr. *Gibbons* to a Friend, dated *Sept.* 2. following.

They both agree in all the material Circumſtances relating to the Fact; both giving their Relations from the Mouths of the Eye-witneſſes, who viewed the

Body when it was firſt found burning; particularly Mr. *Gibbons* from the Woman's own Daughter, and from 2 other Perſons living in the ſame Houſe, whoſe Names are *Boyden*. The Caſe was this; One *Grace Pett*, a Fiſherman's Wife, of the Pariſh of *St. Clement's* in *Ipſwich*, aged about 60, had a Cuſtom, for ſeveral Years paſt, of going down-ſtairs every Night, after ſhe was half undreſs'd, to ſmoak a Pipe, or on ſome other private Occaſion. The Daughter, who lay with her, fell aſleep, and did not miſs her Mother, till ſhe awaked early in the Morning, *April* 10. 1744. when, dreſſing herſelf, and going down-ſtairs, ſhe found her Mother's Body lying on the right Side, with her Head againſt the Grate, and extended over the Hearth, with her Legs on the Deal-Floor, and appearing like a Block of Wood burning with a glowing Fire without Flame; upon which quenching it with two Bowls of Water, the Smother and Stench thereof almoſt ſtifled the Neighbours, whom her Cries had brought in; the Trunk of the Body was in a manner burnt to Aſhes, and appeared like an Heap of Charcoal cover'd with white Aſhes; the Head, Arms, Legs and Thighs were alſo very much burnt.

It was ſaid, that the Woman had drank very plentifully of Gin over-night, on the Occaſion of a Merry-making, on account of a Daughter who was lately come home from *Gibraltar*. But the Difficulty is to account for the Fire by which ſhe was burnt; ſince there was none in the Grate, and the Candle was burnt out in the Socket of the Candleſtick, which ſtood by her; and a Child's Cloaths on one Side of her, and a Paper Screen on the other, were both untouch'd: And altho' the melting of the Greaſe had ſo penetrated into the Hearth, as not to be ſcour'd out, yet they obſerved,

obſerved, that the Deal-Floor was neither ſinged nor diſcolour'd; and the Manner of the Fire burning in her Body is deſcribed as the working of ſome inward Cauſe, and not from the burning of her Cloaths, which were only a Cotton Gown and upper Petticoat.

XVII. *An Account of a Quadruped brought from* Bengal, *and now to be ſeen in* London: *Preſented by* James Parſons, *M. D. & F.R.S.*

Read June 27. 1745. BEING always deſirous of laying before this Learned *Society* whatſoever appears to me new and curious, I embraced the preſent Opportunity of viewing and deſcribing this Creature, which I cannot find mentioned by any Natural Hiſtorian, nor any Figure exhibited, in the leaſt, like it. Nor is it indeed to be wonder'd at, ſince the Beaſt was brought to *Bengal*, from a very remote Part of the *Mogul*'s Dominions; inſomuch that no Perſon at *Bengal* had the leaſt Knowledge of him.

The only Hint that ſeems to point at this Creature, is that mentioned by *John Albert de Mandelſloe*, in his Voyages thro' the *Indies*, which are publiſhed in HARRIS's *Complete Collection of Voyages and Travels*, N°. 52. p. 775. where he ſays, that, among the Horſes in the Stables of the *Viceroy* of *Goa*, he ſaw "a Beaſt called a *Biggel*, a Creature "much about the Colour and Bigneſs of a Rain-"deer: Its Head like that of a Horſe; its Main like "that

Fig. 1. p. 363.



Fig. 2. p. 364.



Fig. 3. p. 365.

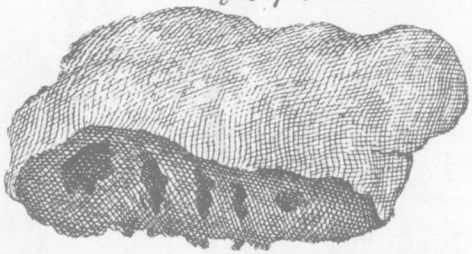
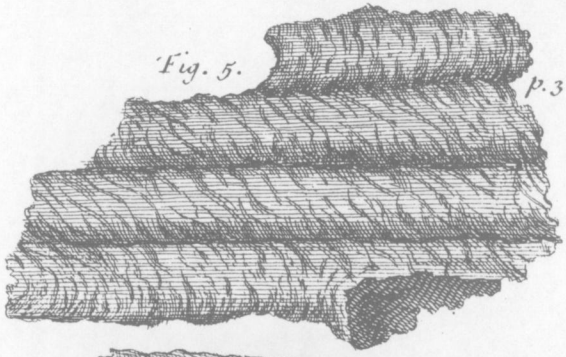


Fig. 5. *p. 365.*



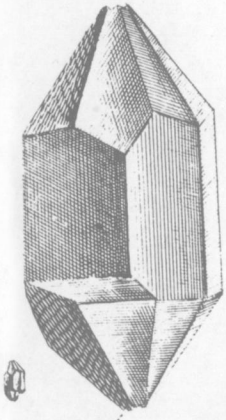
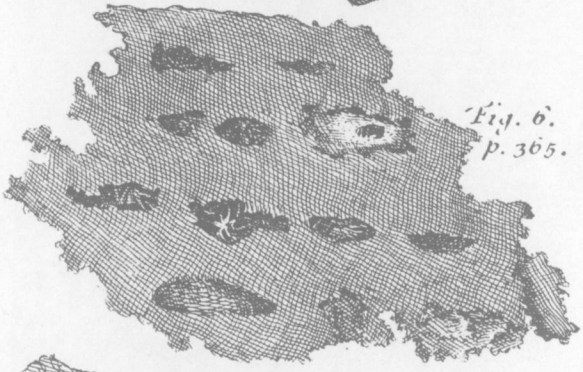


Fig. 10. p. 468.

Fig. 6. p. 365.



IP. s. *del.*



Fig. 7. p. 365.

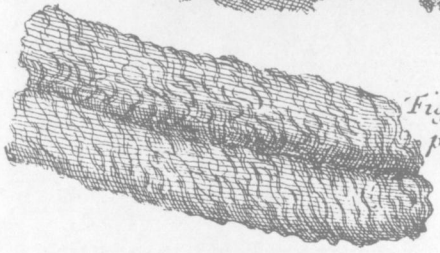
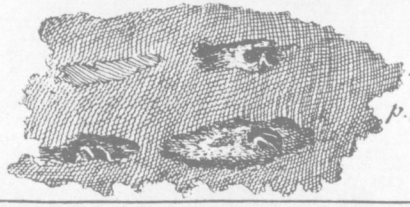


Fig. 8. p. 365.



I.



Fig. 2. p. 364.

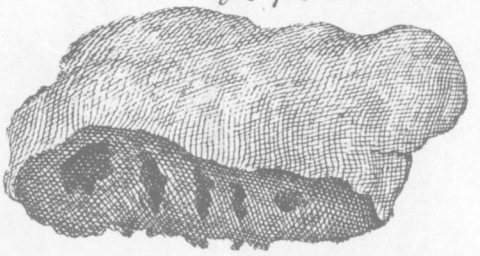


Fig. 3. p. 365.



Fig. 4. p. 365.



p. 365.

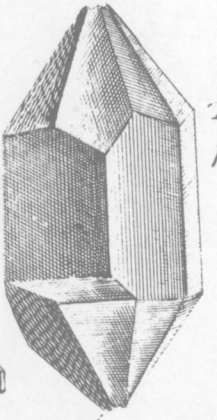


Fig. 10. p. 468.



Fig. 6. p. 365.

IP.s. *del.:*

Fig. 9. p. 463.



Fig. 7. p. 365.



Fig. 8. p. 365.

J. Mynd.